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BY ROB HAVENS '88

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ON THE COVER: Jimbo Fisher and staff sign the #1 recruiting class in the nation and are on pace to sign the best class in college football history.

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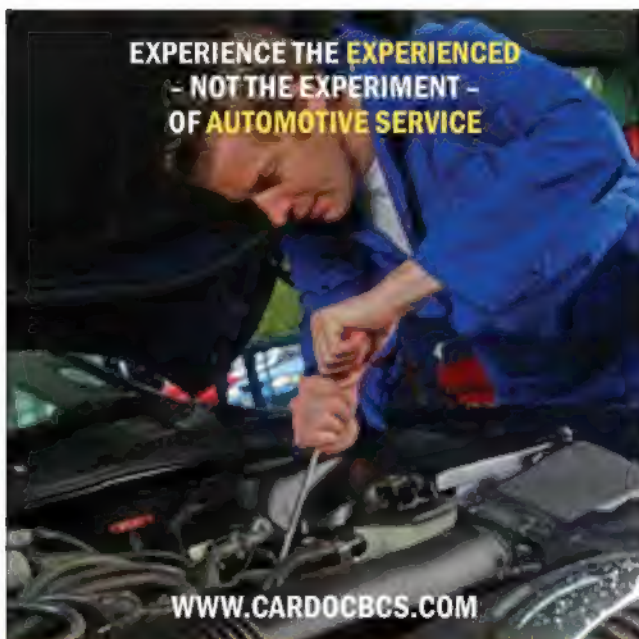
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Howdy Ags!

Well it wasn't the ending we hoped for, but with the historic signing class that Jimbo just signed, the future in Aggieland is certainly bright. As we look back at the season and the high expectations we had, it is easy to say the Aggies fell short of what we hoped would happen this year. Nevertheless, I am very impressed with how our football team fought this year and how they overcame so many obstacles. We lost our starting quarterback in the second game and had to roll a backup out there that had not had significant playing time on the field in a couple of years. The team responded by getting better each week, and in game 6 of the season they shocked the college football world by beating the defending national champ! Coach Fisher always talks about how winning is a game of inches. That was proven true this season because all four of our losses, could have been wins except for a couple of plays. The Aggies play in the best division in college football, and Jimbo has built up this program to such an elite status that we can now expect to compete for championships. He just signed the best class in college football, and he has already proven that he knows how to develop players. He became the first Nick Saban assistant to beat him on the gridiron. Our win over Bama was a turning point. You can't be the best until you beat the best, and Jimbo has shown we can do that. I am so excited to see how the spring goes and to watch the new guys step up and continue the success that this class started. The loss of the bowl game was really rough, but the Aggies are loaded with talent and the competition in the spring at quarterback may be the best in the country. I can't wait to see what our guys accomplish next year. The #1 signing class will be the springboard for a championship in the near future!

Gig'em Ags!

Rob '88



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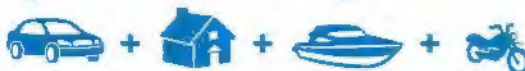
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PROUD AGGIE MOM





THE HIT 2.0

Antonio Johnson (#27) came off the edge untouched and blew up the Prairie View A&M quarterback, dislodging the ball and allowing Aaron Hansford (#1) to scoop it up and score a touchdown. A huge gasp from the crowd filled the air after the hit as the 12th Man acknowledged the bone-crushing tackle from the sophomore defensive back. It brought back memories of "The Hit" by Quentin Coryatt on a TCU receiver in 1991 that is shown on the Jumbotron before each Aggie home game.

Photo by Rob Havenis '88

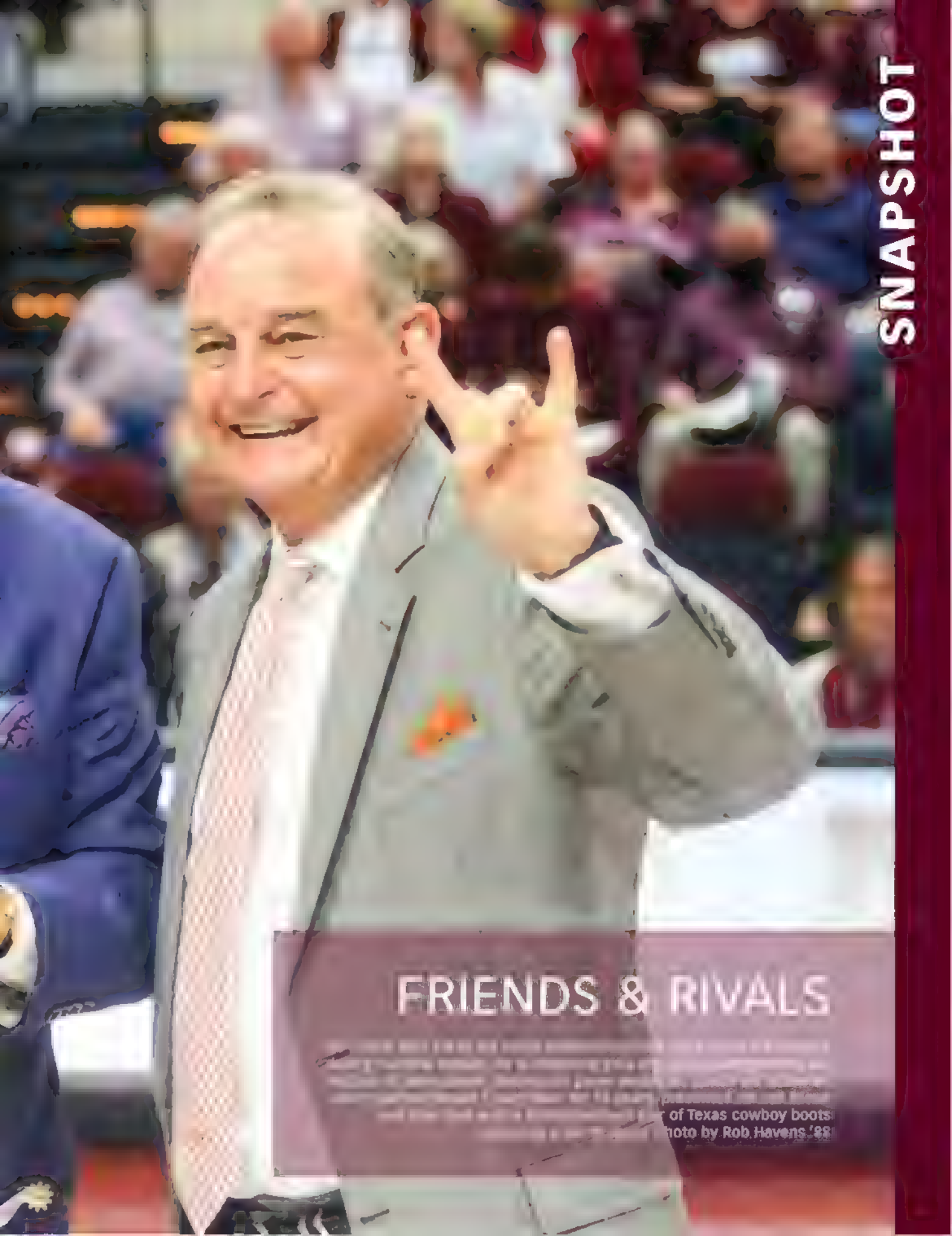




SCOOP & SCORE

Michael Clemons races 24 yards to the end zone after Auburn QB Bo Nix fumbled, allowing the senior to scoop it up for the game-sealing touchdown. The Aggies led 9-3 at the time, and the scoop and score was the biggest play of the game, as the Aggies went onto defeat the #12 Tigers 20-3. Photo by Rob Havens '88





FRIENDS & RIVALS

THE 2008 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYOFFS ARE UNDERWAY, AND THE STARS OF THE GAME ARE THE PLAYERS WHO HAVE MADE THE MOST OF THEIR OPPORTUNITIES. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE TOP 10 PLAYERS OF THE YEAR, AS RATED BY THE PLAYERS THEMSELVES. THE LIST IS BASED ON THE PLAYERS' OWN RATINGS OF THEIR OWN PERFORMANCE, AND NOT ON THE RATINGS OF OTHERS. THE LIST IS BASED ON THE PLAYERS' OWN RATINGS OF THEIR OWN PERFORMANCE, AND NOT ON THE RATINGS OF OTHERS.

of Texas cowboy boots
 photo by Rob Havens '88

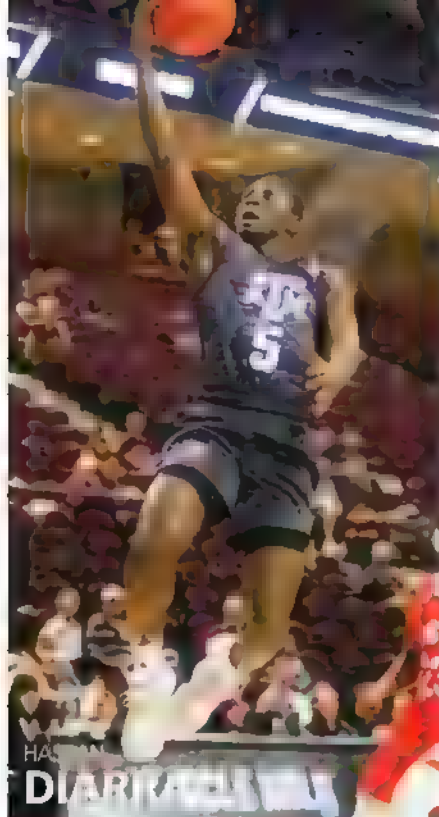




WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Our ladies wrapped up the non-conference portion of their schedule with a 10-2 record and a Paradise Jam Tournament Championship. This team is loaded with talent and lots of depth. They lead the nation as the best 3-point shooting club at 41.7%. Senior Kayla Wells leads the team in scoring, averaging 17.5 points per game, and Jordan Nixon has knocked down 29 three pointers in 12 games.





HAILEY
DIARR



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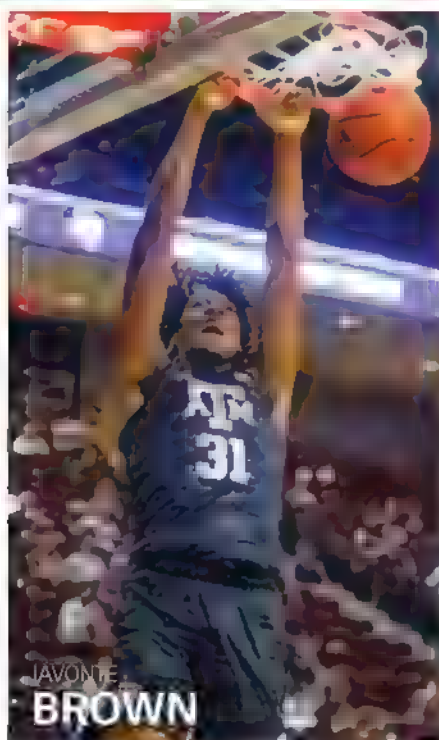
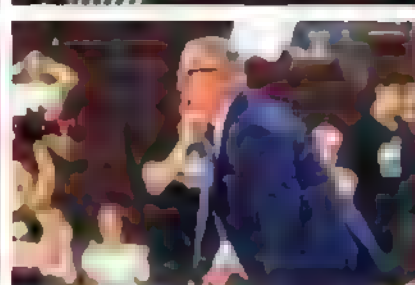


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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Buzz Williams basically had to build this team from the ground up, and so far the results have been positive. Through the first eleven games, the Ags are 9-2. Almost every night, the Aggies have someone new step up to lead the team in scoring. Quenton Jackson is the only Aggie with a double digit scoring average at 12.2 points per game. Once again this team grinds out wins with defense and effort.



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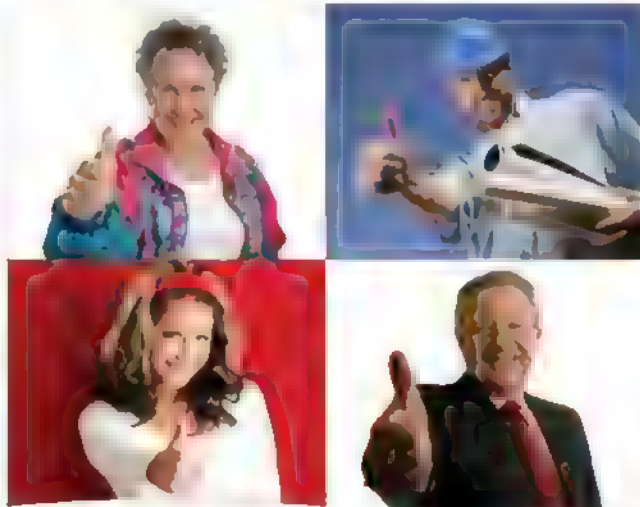
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AGGIES UNABLE TO FIELD TEAM FOR GATOR BOWL

BY ROB HAVENS '88

"It was the best of times it was the worst of times..." The most famous line of Charles Dickens *A Tale of Two Cities* seems quite appropriate for how December went for Texas A&M Football.

Jimbo Fisher and his staff assembled and signed what will probably be the best recruiting class in the history of college football. Early signing day was a lot of fun as the tweets kept rolling out that the Aggies had received papers from another signee. 5 star after 5 star committed, and the Aggies passed Georgia and Alabama for the top spot with more potential recruits to come in the next two months.

Unfortunately, not all of the news was good. Just days before early signing day the Aggies lost Defensive Coordinator Mike Elko, who left to take the head coaching job at Duke. Coach Fisher and his staff were able to keep every recruit after the announcement was made. The Aggies also lost offensive line coach Josh Henson, who decided to join Lincoln Riley at USC as his offensive coordinator.

The Aggies also got the news that several starters were opting out of the bowl to get ready for a potential NFL career. DeMarvin Leal, Jayden Peevy, Kenyon Green, Jalen Wydermyer, Isaiah Spiller &

Leon O'Neal all decided to skip the bowl and try to get drafted.

The most shocking news of all came from Zach Calzada who decided to enter the transfer portal and skip the bowl. Coach Fisher confirmed that Haynes King was practicing, but true freshman walk-on Blake Bost would be the starting quarterback for the bowl.

Not only was Jimbo able to sign an elite high school class, but he also signed Max Johnson, the quarterback that led the LSU Tigers to a win over the Aggies in the final regular season game.

On Tuesday December 21st the athletic department revealed that the program had been forced to stop bowl practices due to positive COVID cases as well as contact tracing that wouldn't allow the team to prepare on the practice field. The next day the program announced, "Due to a combination of COVID-19 issues within the Texas A&M football program, as well as season-ending injuries, the Aggie football roster is not in a position to safely participate in the upcoming Dec. 31 TaxSlayer Gator Bowl against Wake Forest."

In the press release, Jimbo explained, "it is unfortunate, but we just don't have enough scholarship players available to field a team."

Athletic Director Ross Bjork added,

"It is heartbreaking for our players, coaches, staff and fans that we are not able to play in the TaxSlayer Gator Bowl."

"Post-season football is the pinnacle of the season and when the opportunity is lost, it hurts on many levels," Bjork continued. "As we have learned in the last 21 months of this health challenge, the well-being and safety of our student-athletes is paramount. Our players poured their heart and soul into this season and we appreciate their dedication as Aggies. Aggie football is on track for long-term success, and we know that the best is yet to come."

According to Bjork, after COVID, opt outs, transfers and season ending injuries, the Aggies had only 38 scholarship position players available, including just 13 on defense. With only nine days until the game, the Aggies weren't able to field a team for the bowl.

And so just like Dickens penned in his classic novel "it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair..." The loss of the bowl was tough, but we won't despair because the spring is coming and as Bjork reminded us "The best is yet to come!" ■



FOOTBALL REWIND 2021

GAME 9



TEXAS A&M 20 - AUBURN 3

Since joining the SEC, the visiting team has won almost every game in this match up. The Aggies rode a three game winning streak into the contest against the #12 ranked Tigers. The game was a defensive battle all day. The capacity crowd helped propel the Ags to a 20-3 win and gave Texas A&M bragging rights for being the Alabama state champs after the win in October over the Crimson Tide. Although the offense never made it into the end zone, they were still able to move the ball and set up four Seth Small field goals (21, 29, 47 and 37 yarder). With the Aggies holding on to a tight 9-3 lead in the fourth quarter, Jayden Peevy forced a Bo Nix fumble, and Michael Clemmons scooped it up and ran it in from 24 yards out. Kyle Field exploded as the defense made the play of the day. Zach Calzada connected with Ain as Smith for the two-point conversion that extended the lead to 17-3. The Aggies would add one more field goal to top off the scoring, and Jaylon Jones would intercept Bo Nix on the Tiger's final drive to give the Aggies the win! Spiller and Achane both had 100 plus yard days, and Zach threw for 192 yards on 15 of 29 passing attempts.

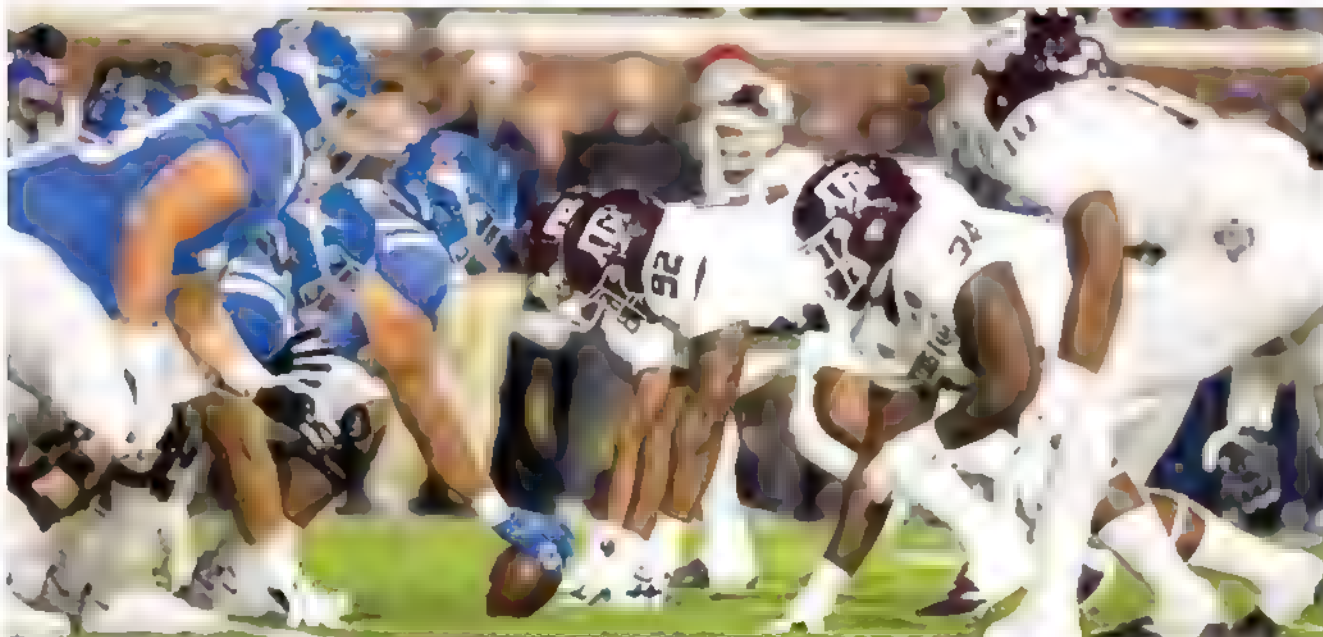


GAME 10

*Old
Miss*

OLE MISS 29 - TEXAS A&M 19

In Game #10 the Aggies faced the high-powered offense of Lane Kiffin. It was the first time the Aggies faced the Rebels under Kiffin's leadership since last year's games were cancelled due to COVID-19. The offense was unable to score in the first half, but the defense had some big stops, and the team went into the locker room down 15-0 at the half. The Aggies rebounded and scored 13 unanswered points to bring the score to 15-13 with ten minutes to play. Seth Small kicked two field goals, and the offense put together an 88 scoring drive highlighted by a 24-yard touchdown run by Achane. The Aggies also stopped a fake field goal to take back the momentum in the game. But the Rebels intercepted Calzada twice late in the game and scored a touchdown on a short field and a pick 6 that the Ags were not able to overcome. We did score one more touchdown on an Achane 9 yard carry, but our final possession didn't generate any first downs and the Ags ran out of time in this one, falling 29-19.

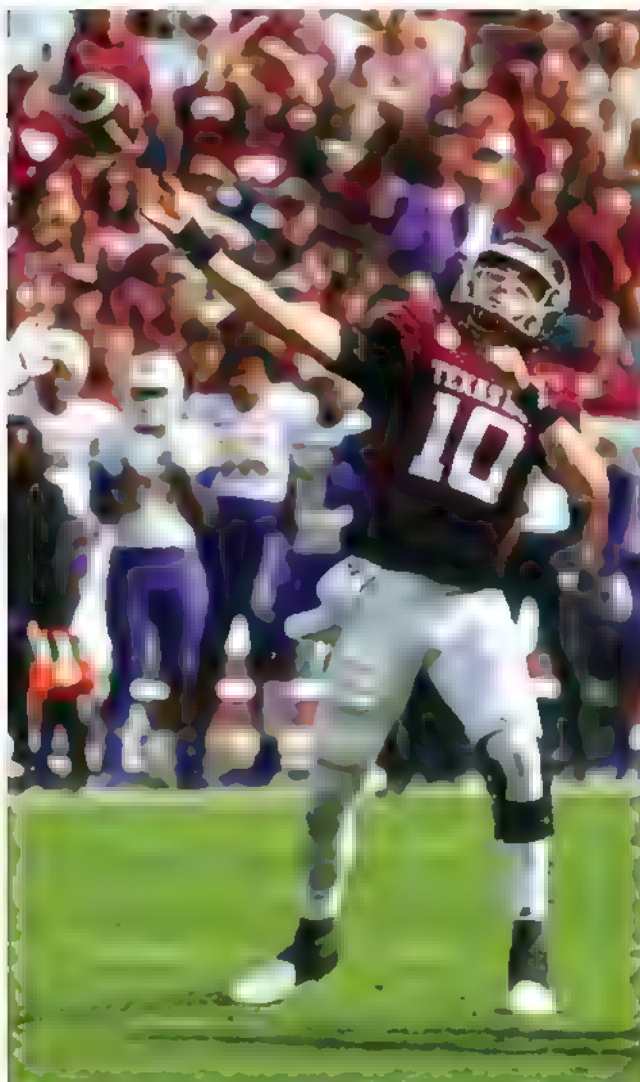
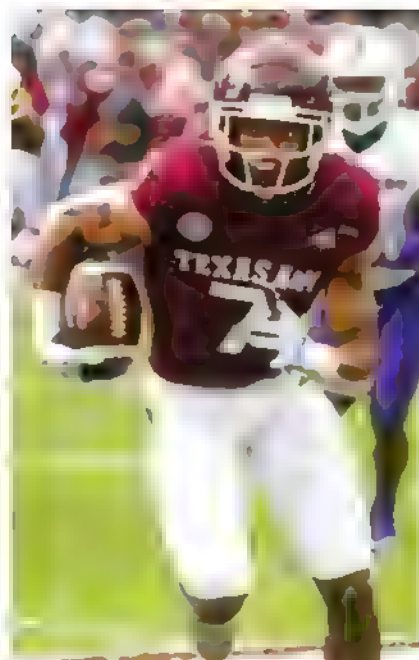


GAME 11



TEXAS A&M 52 - PRAIRIE VIEW A&M 3

After the disappointing loss to the Rebels, the Aggies returned home to take on the Panthers. Prairie View's band filled the air with their high-octane music, and no matter what happened when the teams lined up, we knew the halftime show would be exciting to watch. The Aggies played one of their most complete games and never allowed the Panthers in the end zone. Devon Achane had two rushing touchdowns, and Isaiah Spiller had one as well to pace the Aggies rushing attack. Moose Muhammad III had five catches for 77 yards and two touchdowns. Amari Daniels took advantage of his playing time and rushed for eight times, gained 70 yards, and scored his first touchdown. Seth Smailes added a 27 yard field goal, and the Aggies generated 52 points on offense. Our defense almost pitched a shut out, allowing just one field goal during the game. They only allowed 154 total yards of offense including 7 yards through the air. As expected, the halftime show was amazing and the PVAM band received a standing ovation from the 12th Man.

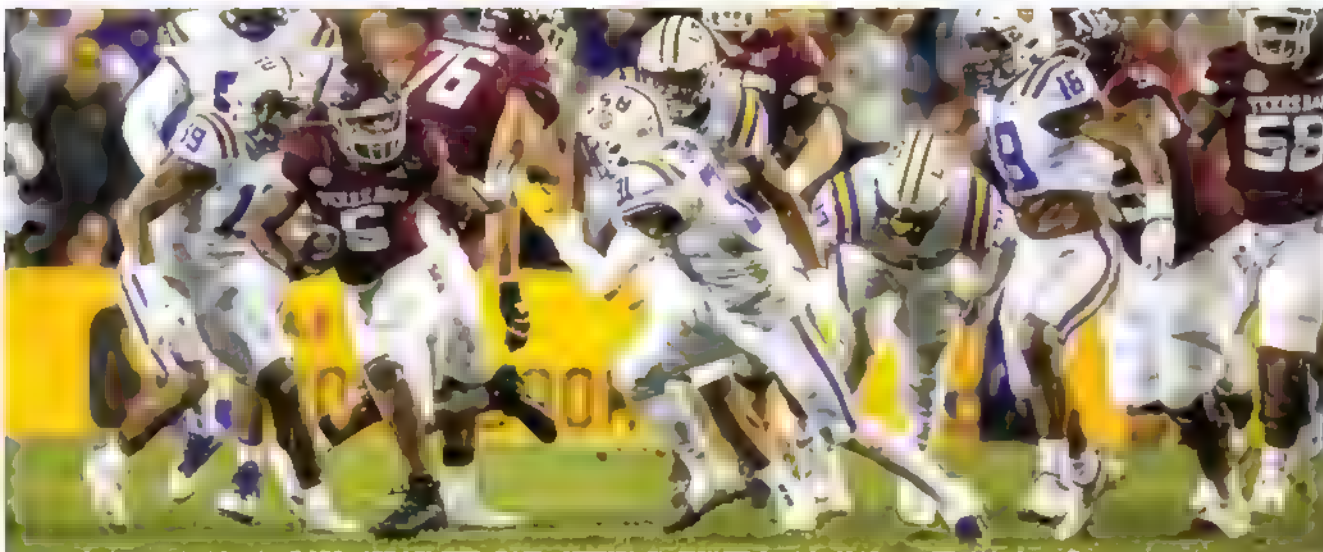
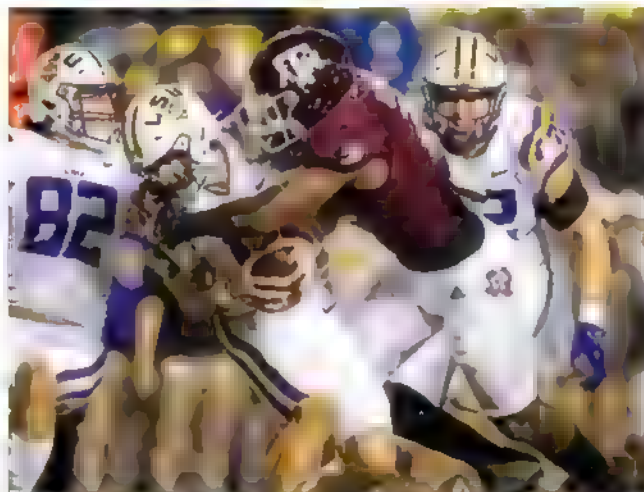


GAME 12

LSU

LSU 27 - TEXAS A&M 24

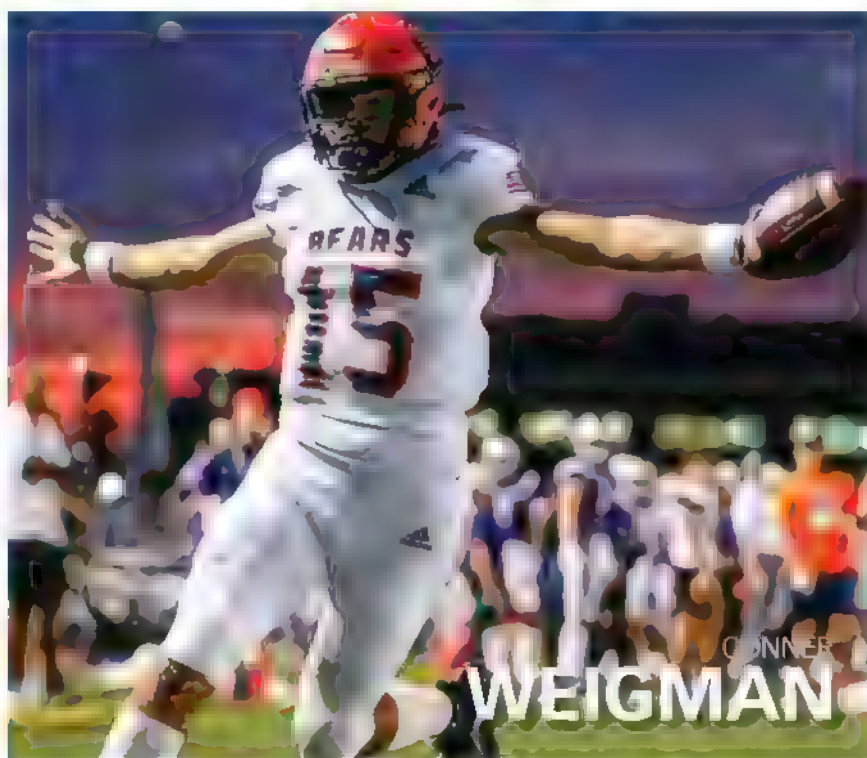
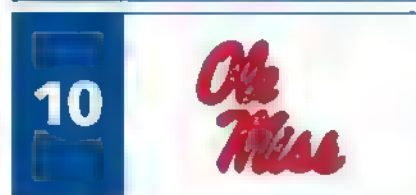
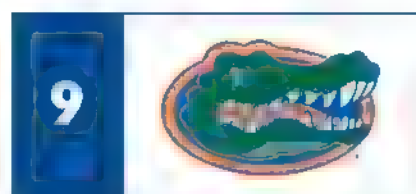
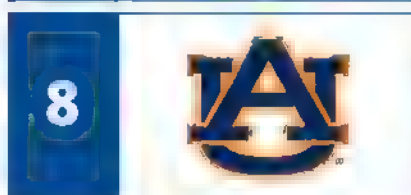
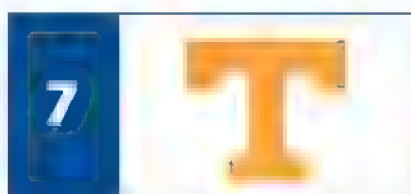
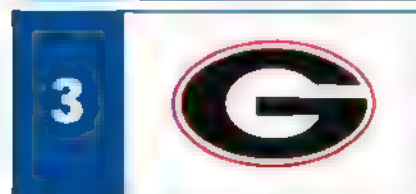
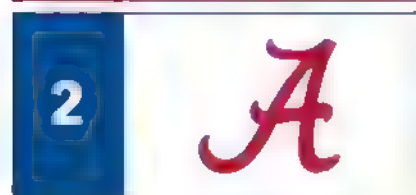
The final game of the regular season was also the final game for head coach Ed Orgeron. Scott Woodward had given him his walking papers earlier during the season, but he was allowed to coach the remaining games. The game went back and forth after slow starts by both teams. The Tigers led 10-0 when Calzada connected with Moose Muhammad III on a 13-yard touchdown pass that brought the Agges back within three. But a 63-yard touchdown pass right before the half gave LSU a 17-7 lead. The T-gers extended their lead to ten in the third quarter before the Aggies finally got things going. Calzada found Jalen Preston for the first and second touchdowns of his Aggie career in the fourth quarter, giving the Aggies their first lead. It looked like they would win. Nick Constantinou punted the ball 53 yards with 4:12 left in the game. Our special teams stripped the ball away from the punt returner, but the refs claimed his forward momentum had been stopped and the play could not be reviewed. The T-gers went 85 yards converting a 4th and 6 along the way, and Johnson threw a 28-yard touchdown pass to Jenkins for the winning score with just :20 left in the game. It was a heartbreaking loss.





RECRUITING CLASS 2022

How the Ags' 2022 recruiting class ranks in the SEC



BRYCE



ANDERSON

POSITION		DEFENSIVE BACK	
HEIGHT		5'11"	WEIGHT 191
HIGH SCHOOL		WEST BROOK	
HOMETOWN		BEAUMONT, TX	
2022 Under Armour All-American and 2022 Polynesian Bowl selection. Excelled at quarterback for West Brook HS, tallying over 1,600 total yards and 14 touchdowns as a senior			

DEYON "SMOKE"



BOUIE

POSITION	DEFENSIVE BACK		
HEIGHT	5'11"	WEIGHT	181
HIGH SCHOOL	BA NBR DGE		
HOMETOWN	BA NBRIDGE, GA		
2022 All-American Bowl. As a senior, finished with 21 tackles, seven passes defended, two tackles-for-loss, two interceptions, one fumble recovery and one blocked field goal			

GABRIEL



BROWNLOW-DINDY

POSITION		DEFENSIVE TACKLE	
HEIGHT		6'3"	WEIGHT 276
HIGH SCHOOL		LAKELAND	
HOMETOWN		LAKELAND, FL	
2022 Under Armour All-American As a senior, finished with 18 tackles, 14 tackles-for-loss, seven sacks and 13 hurries.			

KAM



DEWBERRY

POSITION	OFFENSIVE LINE	
HEIGHT	6'4"	WEIGHT 324
HIGH SCHOOL	ATASCOCITA	
HOMETOWN	HUMBLE, TX	
2022 Under Armour All-American and 2022 Polynesian Bowl selection. Finalist for Greater Houston area offensive player of the year by the Touchdown Club of Houston		

HUNTER



ERB

POSITION	OFFENSIVE LINE		
HEIGHT	6'6"	WEIGHT	323
HIGH SCHOOL	V R. EATON		
HOMETOWN	NEWARK, TX		
2022 All-American Bowl, first player from Eaton HS to earn the honor. Was a unanimous first-team all-district selection as a junior.			

DONOVAN



GREEN

POSITION		TIGHT END	
HEIGHT		6'4"	WEIGHT 240
HIGH SCHOOL		DICKINSON	
HOMETOWN		LEAGUE CITY, TX	
2022 Under Armour All-American. As a senior, earned District 24-6A MVP after making 27 catches for 602 yards and nine touchdowns. Finished prep career with 87 receptions for 1,672 yards and 18 touchdowns.			

MARQUIS



GROVES-KILLEBREW

POSITION	DEFENSIVE BACK		
HEIGHT	6'0"	WEIGHT	180
HIGH SCHOOL	NORTH COBB		
HOMETOWN	KENNESAW, GA		
2022 All American Bowl. Posted 38 tackles and a pair of interceptions as a senior leading North Cobb HS to a 10-2 record			

ISH



HARRIS

POSITION		LINEBACKER
HEIGHT	6'2"	WEIGHT 200
HIGH SCHOOL		PILOT POINT
HOMETOWN		PILOT POINT, TX
As a senior, recorded 57 tackles, an interception and a fumble recovery in 10 games of action. Rushed for 857 yards and 14 touchdowns and made 19 catches for 211 yards and two touchdowns.		

DENVER



HARRIS

POSITION	DEFENSIVE BACK		
HEIGHT	5'11"	WEIGHT	175
HIGH SCHOOL	NORTH SHORE		
HOMETOWN	HOUSTON, TX		
Chose A&M over Bama, LSU, & Texas. Invited to Under Armour All-American game. 2020 1st Team MaxPreps Jr. All-American. District 21-6A Defensive Player of the year.			

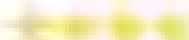
MARTRELL



HARRIS, JR

POSITION LINEBACKER	
HEIGHT 6'2"	WEIGHT 210
HIGH SCHOOL THE WOODLANDS	
HOMETOWN THE WOODLANDS, TX	
2022 Under Armour All-American Totaled 67 tackles, eight tackles-for-loss, five sacks, four forced fumbles, three fumbles recoveries, two pass breakups and two interceptions as a senior	

JAKE



JOHNSON

POSITION TIGHT END	
HEIGHT 6'5"	WEIGHT 225
HIGH SCHOOL O'CONNOR COUNTY	
HOMETOWN ATHENS, GA	
2022 All-American Bowl 45 catches for 745 yards and eight touchdowns as a senior. In 2020, he made 37 receptions for 787 yards and 10 scores as he lead his team to a 12-1 record.	

JARRED



KERR

POSITION DEFENSIVE BACK	
HEIGHT 5'11"	WEIGHT 173
HIGH SCHOOL LEXINGTON	
HOMETOWN LEXINGTON, TX	
District 13-3A first-team selection at safety and utility player Offensively he recorded 128 rushes for 1,095 yards and 14 touchdowns while hauling in 22 receptions for 42 yards and four touchdowns through the air	

ANTHONY



LUCAS

POSITION DEFENSIVE LINE	
HEIGHT 6'5"	WEIGHT 300
HIGH SCHOOL CHAPARRAL	
HOMETOWN SCOTTSDALE, AZ	
2022 Under Armour All-American As a senior, recorded 64 tackles including 22 tackles-for-loss and 9.5 sacks.	

CHRIS



MARSHALL

POSITION WIDE RECEIVER	
HEIGHT 6'3"	WEIGHT 198
HIGH SCHOOL FORT BEND MARSHALL	
HOMETOWN MISSOURI CITY, TX	
2022 Under Armour All-American. In his seven games as a senior, he posted 466 receiving yards at 31.1 yards per catch and scored 11 touchdowns.	

JACOBY



MATTHEWS

POSITION SAFETY	
HEIGHT 6'2"	WEIGHT 193
HIGH SCHOOL PONCHATOULA	
HOMETOWN PONCHATOULA, LA	
Chose A&M over Alabama, LSU & Texas. Played quarterback and safety in high school He is considered one of the top overall defensive prospects in the country. Also played basketball in high school.	

ETHAN



MOCZULSKI

POSITION KICKER	
HEIGHT 5'11"	WEIGHT 185
HIGH SCHOOL MT SPOKANE	
HOMETOWN SPOKANE, WA	
2022 All-American Bowl Booted 13 field goals with a long of 49 yards as a senior. Named to the first team MaxPreps Preseason Washington All-State team.	

LE'VEON



MOSS

POSITION RUNNING BACK	
HEIGHT 5'11"	WEIGHT 200
HIGH SCHOOL ISTROUMA COLLEGE PREP	
HOMETOWN WALKER, LA	
2022 Under Armour All-American and 2022 Polynesian Bowl selection. As a senior he averaged a touchdown every seven carries and 7.8 yards per rush. Multi-sport athlete.	

MARK



NABOU

POSITION OFFENSIVE LINE	
HEIGHT 6'4"	WEIGHT 354
HIGH SCHOOL O'DEA	
HOMETOWN LYNWOOD, WA	
2022 Polynesian Bowl selection. As a senior, helped lead O'Dea to an 8-3 record and a 4-1 mark in the 3A Metro League.	



WALTER
NOLEN

POSITION	DEFENSIVE LINE	
HEIGHT	6'4"	WEIGHT 349
HIGH SCHOOL	POWELL	
HOMETOWN	POWELL, TN	
2022 Under Armour All-American. As a senior, compiled 93 tackles, 33 tackles-for-loss, 27 quarterback hurries, 17 sacks, six forced fumbles, three pass breakups and two fumble recoveries.		

THEODOR MELIN
OHRSTROM

POSITION	TIGHT END	
HEIGHT	6'5"	WEIGHT 238
HIGH SCHOOL	RIG ACADEMY	
HOMETOWN	STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN	
Attended RIG Football Academy in Uppsala, Sweden, a 30-student program aimed at developing players for the Swedish national American football team.		

JADON
SCARLETT

POSITION	DEFENSIVE LINE	
HEIGHT	6'2"	WEIGHT 260
HIGH SCHOOL	ARGYLE	
HOMETOWN	ARGYLE, TX	
As a senior, recorded 13 tackles behind the line of scrimmage and made 26 tackles at Argyle HS. in 2020, he totaled 75 tackles, 37 tackies-for-loss and 10 sacks.		



EVAN



STEWART

POSITION	WIDE RECEIVER		
HEIGHT	6'0"	WEIGHT	175
HIGH SCHOOL	LIBERTY		
HOMETOWN	FRISCO, TX		
Chose A&M over Bama, Texas, & Michigan. 2 sport athlete in football and track. Won Texas 5A long jump title as a junior			

SHEMAR



STEWART

POSITION	DEFENSIVE LINE		
HEIGHT	6'4"	WEIGHT	276
HIGH SCHOOL	MONSIGNOR PACE		
HOMETOWN	MIRAMAR, FL		
2022 Under Armour All-American 13 sacks as a senior. 15 sacks and 48 tackles as a sophomore. Two-sport athlete, played basketball in addition to football			

MALICK



SYLLA

POSITION	DEFENSIVE LINE		
HEIGHT	6'5"	WEIGHT	225
HIGH SCHOOL	KATY		
HOMETOWN	KATY, TX		
2022 Under Armour All American As a senior, posted 55 tackles, 17 tackles-for-loss, eight sacks, two forced fumbles and one interception			

BOBBY



TAYLOR

POSITION	DEFENSIVE BACK		
HEIGHT	6'0"	WEIGHT	177
HIGH SCHOOL	KATY, TX		
HOMETOWN	KATY, TX		
2022 Under Armour All-American In 2020, helped Katy to an undefeated season and the Texas 6A D-II state championship.			

NOAH



THOMAS

POSITION	WIDE RECEIVER		
HEIGHT	6'5"	WEIGHT	195
HIGH SCHOOL	CLEAR SPRINGS		
HOMETOWN	PEARLAND, TX		
Compiled 63 catches, 935 receiving yards and 21 touchdowns as a senior. Averaged 85 yards per games and 14.8 yards per catch and added a kick return touchdown			

CONNER



WEIGMAN

POSITION		QUARTERBACK	
HEIGHT	6'2"	WEIGHT	205
HIGH SCHOOL		CYPRESS BRIDGELAND	
HOMETOWN		CYPRESS, TX	
2022 Under Armour All-American Accumulated 34 touchdowns and nearly 2,900 total yards as a senior Earned the Houston Touchdown Club Offensive Player of the Year.			

ENAI



WHITE

POSITION	DEFENSIVE LINE		
HEIGHT	6'5"	WEIGHT	225
HIGH SCHOOL	IMHOTEP CHARTER		
HOMETOWN	PHILADELPHIA, PA		
2022 All-American Bowl. Tallied 32 tackles and 13 tackles-for-loss as a senior Finished the season 11-2 in conference play and an appearance in the state championship.			

PJ



WILLIAMS

POSITION	OFFENSIVE LINE		
HEIGHT	6'4"	WEIGHT	246
HIGH SCHOOL	DICKINSON		
HOMETOWN	DICKINSON, TX		
2022 Under Armour All-American. In 2021, was a District 24 6A unanimous first team selection at offensive tackle and helped Dickinson to an undefeated record in district play.			



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WOMEN'S RUGBY CLUB

BY ROB HAVENS '88

If you are not familiar with the terms "scrum," "ruck," or "blood bin," don't feel bad; the sport of rugby has its own unique language. The sport began in the mid-1700s in the Midlands of England. The Women's Rugby club at A&M began in 1974 but became even more popular after a 2010/2011 rugby tour in England, at which time the Aggies vaulted up to #8 in the nation.

The game is quite physical and, unlike football, is played without pads. Players can run and kick the egg-shaped ball but can only pass it backwards. The team competes in two types of rugby: 7s and 15s. They will be competing in 15s this spring. The team will play individual games as well as round robin tournaments for state and nationals.

Unlike some Sport Clubs, which require the student-athletes who join to have previous experience, most of the members who join the Women's

Rugby Club have no experience at all. In fact, this year's team of 20 has only two members that played before joining the team. Club president, Wendy Zimmerer, said that when she transferred to A&M in January of 2020, she was hoping to join the weightlifting club. However, at the MSC Open House, she was invited to join the Women's Rugby Team and was hooked after the first practice.

We asked Wendy what makes a great rugby player, and she replied, "A great rugby player is made by intensity on the field and respect off the field. With rugby being a contact sport, having the mental toughness to get tackled and get back up again to support your teammates is a big factor. Rugby around the world is seen as a family, so it's not uncommon to have friends from other teams, and if you meet someone who plays rugby, there is an automatic connection and brotherhood that enters

the relationship."

Last fall the team finished second in the state. Zimmerer said that she is very proud of that accomplishment, coming back from COVID-19, hiring a new coach, and recruiting several rookies for this year's team.



CHEER SQUAD

BY ROB HAVENS '88

"Some may boast of prowess bold of the school they think so grand, but there's a spirit can ne'er be told, it's the spirit of Aggieland." The beginning line of our school song, and the thing that makes us different, is the spirit that burns in the hearts of all Aggies. The Texas A&M Cheer Squad is a great example of what that spirit means at Texas A&M.

Although the squad doesn't cheer at sporting events, they still display this spirit in competitions and in the hard work it takes to become National Champions. In fact, they won back-to-back natty's in 2018 and 2019 and came in second place in the nation in 2021. They are fired up and determined to win another National Championship in 2022!

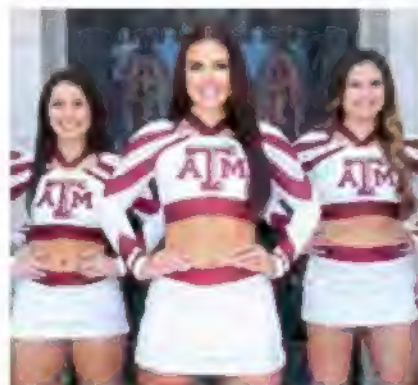
The club was started in 2001 by Shannan Johnson. According to the current club president, Marissa Ramsey, the team typically competes in three in-state competitions per year before heading to Daytona Beach, Florida for the Collegiate National Championship in April. She told us, "We perform a two-minute and fifteen-second routine including

tumbling, stunting, jumps, and a dance, and are scored by a panel of judges. At Nationals we compete against 15-20 other college teams from across the nation!"

In the beginning, there were just a few women in the club, but now nearly a hundred women try out for one of the coveted spots on the team. The current squad has 25 members—20 that compete and five alternates—in case someone sustains an injury. In the fall, they practice three days a week for three hours at a time. "In the spring," Ramsey explained, "we get really busy. In addition to our typical three practices, we add in 6:00 a.m. workouts twice a week. We also travel nearly every weekend to various competitions, show-offs, and fundraising events."

We asked Marissa what her favorite thing is about being on the team, and she said, "My favorite thing about the Texas A&M Cheer Squad is definitely the people around me. We spend so much time together and truly become a family. We are all here because we truly want to be here; not because our parents are forcing

us, not because we got a scholarship, etc. The amount of love and hard work that goes into each season when we are all pushing towards a common goal creates a bond like no other. These are people I want to keep in touch with post graduation, stand by my side on my wedding day, and meet my children in the future. It is an absolute honor to get to lead such an amazing group of women and grow the program."









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